

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. The unemployed don't want another benefits check. They want a job. And I'm proud to say that on Friday, I introduced H.R. 4290, the New Deal for a New Economy Act, which would tackle this problem by creating and helping retain millions of jobs. It will reach that goal by investing \$60 billion per year over 3 years in TARP money.

First, it would invest heavily in the creation of public works and public interest jobs through the creation of the new economy grant program. The jobs could be filled by persons of all skill levels, specifically in the areas of public works projects on the State and local level, and public interest work with community-based nonprofit organizations.

Secondly, it would provide a direct line of funding to states and localities to help alleviate their financial woes. The funding would protect and allow for the expansion of our current workforce and would be channeled directly to local governments through the popular grants programs for COPS hiring, for SAFER Grants for our firefighters, and a public works and economic development grant program. Further, my bill would provide much-needed funding to our Nation's schools to protect our teachers and hire more to meet the needs of our children.

The third and final piece of this bill is one that is critical to restoring our Nation's lands for future generations. It's a direct line of funding to our national forests and national parks to address some of their many high-needs projects that have been neglected for decades.

Mr. Speaker, Wall Street got its bailout. It's time for Main Street to get theirs. Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### TOO MANY PRIORITIES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, if we don't heed Moody's warning, our Nation's AAA credit rating is likely to be downgraded due to unsustainable deficits by 2013. And what does this President and this majority do to answer this serious issue? Spend more money we don't have at record levels.

The President and the majority party have no interest in reining in the budget deficit. Just this weekend, top White House advisers said that tackling the deficit was not a priority. This administration has a lot of priorities. A frequent criticism has been that it has too many priorities. Apparently everything is a priority except for deficit reduction. I guess this shouldn't be a surprise coming from an administration that, in its first year in office, tripled the budget deficit to an all-time record high of \$1.4 trillion.

The President just graded his job performance on the Oprah show as a B-plus. I can only imagine, and with fear, the kind of deficit the President would have run-up if he had given himself an A.

#### IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM SANCTIONS ACT

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, despite its claims of pursuing only a peaceful nuclear program, Iran's actions clearly show that it's developing a nuclear bomb. You only need three elements to create a bomb: material, a delivery system, and a warhead. Iran has or almost has all three of these elements.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Tehran has developed 1¾ tons of low-enriched uranium, enough to make two bombs. As for a delivery system, we know Iran has missiles and in May, tested a new long-range missile that can reach Israel, our other allies, and our troops in the region.

Regarding a warhead, the IAEA has evidence that Iran is working on fitting a bomb inside a missile cone. And this week it was reported that Iran has a plan to test a neutron initiator, a component that is used only to trigger a nuclear bomb and has no possible civilian applications.

As we stand here debating, Iran is making a nuclear bomb. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act will send a signal to Tehran that we will not stand by silently while they develop a nuclear weapon and threaten the entire region.

#### MEDICARE SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD THE REID-PELOSI PLAN

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in the Senate are desperately looking for 60 votes for health care, so desperate that, in a new report released last week, the chief actuary of Medicare found the Reid-Pelosi bill would cause many physicians to stop treating seniors because of \$465 billion in cuts to the Medicare program.

Unfortunately for Medicare beneficiaries, the CMS actuary also found that 20 percent of hospitals and nursing homes would go into the red within the next 10 years due to these cuts, seriously threatening the ability of seniors to rely on these institutions for their care.

As if that were not enough, the Reid bill would also cut payments to Medicare Advantage plans by roughly \$120 billion, plans that 11 million seniors enjoy today. These cuts, according to the actuary, will result in 3.7 million seniors losing benefits under Medicare, causing many to pay more out of pocket each month for the drugs and services they lost. The.

Reid-Pelosi bill will make it harder for seniors to find treatment or afford care when they are sick.

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#### HONORING ERIE HERO CLARA WARD

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, an extraordinary woman in Erie, Pennsylvania. Clara Ward, the founder of the Youth Development and Family Center in Erie, was the star of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" this week, where her dedication to children in need was rewarded with an amazing renovation to her home.

With the help of her daughter Cynthia and son Benny, Clara Ward offers her neighborhood's children a safe haven from the streets. Every year, Clara gives 300 children presents for the holidays, and every day, she provides food to children who otherwise would go to bed hungry.

We all have so much to learn from Clara and her spirit of generosity. It is my hope that we carry this lesson through the holiday season and into the new year.

#### A BOX OF DOUGHNUTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, requiring Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine or even go to jail if the fine tax is unpaid is utterly without constitutional authority. Under the Constitution, a citizen has no affirmative duty to purchase a mandated congressional product. Citizens have the right to do nothing.

The bruisers of the Constitution claim people must buy car insurance. That analogy is flawed. First, States, not Congress, have authority under the 10th Amendment that is not given to Congress. Second, driving is a privilege, not a right, and to exercise that privilege, a driver must buy insurance. But no one is forced to drive a car. Third, car insurance is to protect a third party from the driver. No State requires a driver to buy insurance for themselves.

A better analogy would be, in the name of promoting commerce, forcing all people to buy a car whether they wanted to or not, whether they could afford it or not, or be punished. Congress, by force, requiring all people to buy a product, whether it's health insurance or a car or even a box of doughnuts is unconstitutional and abuse of congressional authority.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE STIMULUS BILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at the last week perhaps of our session, and I think we can look back at some accomplishments. I think we can take some comfort in the fact that when this Congress sat in January, 11 months ago, Americans were losing their jobs at 20,000 every single day.

Because of the stimulus bill, that has slowed and almost stopped. The stimulus bill is rebuilding bridges in my district, rebuilding highways, and rebuilding community health clinics. But slowing the rate at which Americans lose their job is nobody's idea of a Christmas present. We have hard work to do.

I had occasion in church this week-end to hear the words of Handel's "Messiah," "and the government shall be upon his shoulders." That is prophetic, meaning in the future. Right now, the government is on our shoulders. And I hope that when we reconvene in January, we set aside the partisanship, the misinformation, and the anger to get back to the serious business of creating jobs for the American people.

#### THE DEBT CEILING AND DEFENSE SPENDING

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, in what has become a familiar move, House Democrats have decided to increase spending yet again. But sadly, they have opted to shut out debate on this matter by attaching a \$300 billion increase in our Nation's debt ceiling to the Defense appropriations bill. They know they will have serious trouble getting support to increase our Nation's debt limit, so they are using our troops to carry them.

This is one of the reasons the American people are fed up with Congress. And as a Navy veteran, I can assure you that exploiting funding for our troops is both deplorable and demoralizing, and I will continue to oppose such actions.

We owe the American people, our children, our grandchildren, and the men and women risking their lives in defense of our freedom better than this. At Christmas, we should be hanging ornaments on a tree, not massive spending bills on the back of our troops.

#### THE WALL STREET REFORM BILL

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was proud to stand up with many of my colleagues and hold Wall Street accountable for their reckless actions that led us into the biggest financial collapse in the last 50 years. For too long, Wall Street banks were allowed to put short-term profits ahead of long-

term stability under the Bush administration and reaped record profits as a result of their risky and out-of-control behavior.

When the markets collapsed out from under them, this country's hard-working citizens were forced to suffer the consequences. The Wall Street reform bill we passed increases enforcement and makes necessary reforms to hold Wall Street accountable so that it can never again recklessly gamble with our financial health and safety.

The bill also creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to prevent borrowers from taking loans that they can't afford and holding risky lenders liable for their practices. The CFPA will also protect families and small businesses from irresponsible lending practices by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair and easy to understand.

Finally, this bill makes it clear that Wall Street will no longer be receiving any sort of taxpayer-funded bailouts. The American people have pulled together and selflessly acted to help this great country. It is time for Wall Street to step up and do the same.

#### GET THE GOVERNMENT OFF OUR BACKS

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Member from Connecticut just said it's prophetic that the government should be on our shoulders. Unfortunately, the government is on our backs, and it shouldn't be. And no better example of that is this massive health care reform bill, a complete government takeover of health care, bureaucrats coming between doctors and patients.

People in this country have spoken loudly, but the Democratic majority is not listening.

In my 11th Congressional District of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, there are 95,000 people on Medicare, and 13,000 of them, 14 percent of the total, get their coverage under Medicare Advantage. That will be taken away from them as we strip \$120 billion out of the Medicare Advantage program.

What that means, Mr. Speaker, is that those 13,000 people in my district will have to pay an additional \$180 a month for the Medicare fee-for-service coverage if they can find a doctor that will take them. They will have to buy a prescription drug plan at \$30 a month and buy a supplemental Medigap plan to cover many of the things that are covered under Medicare Advantage without additional cost. That policy will cost them \$150 a month. That's why the American people are outraged over this plan.

Listen up, Members. Vote "no."

#### REGULATORY REFORM

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, it was not long ago that our economy bottomed out and we were on the brink of an economic catastrophe. We avoided a complete collapse, but that is little consolation to the Americans who lost trillions of dollars in retirement savings due to the years of reckless behavior on Wall Street.

As we continue to show positive signs in our economy, this House last week passed legislation to make sure that we never again find ourselves in such a dire situation. The regulatory reform bill we passed creates an orderly process through which large, failing financial institutions can effectively be dismantled. No more "too big to fail." We end taxpayer bailouts by ensuring that in the future, Wall Street, not the taxpayers, will pay to dismantle endangered firms. And we end the predatory lending practices that helped cause the crisis by requiring banks to ensure that they only lend to borrowers who can actually repay the loans.

These changes are long overdue but come just in time for the American taxpayer.

#### RECOVERY ACT DIAGNOSIS

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm a family doctor. I have examined the Pelosi and Reid health care bills, and I have made a diagnosis, and the American people need to listen up to this diagnosis.

If you like your health insurance today, the price is going to skyrocket, and you're not going to be able to keep it eventually. If you're on Medicare, you're going to have a hard time finding a doctor that will accept Medicare because of the massive cuts. If you're a veteran and dependent upon TRICARE, forget it.

Mr. Speaker, my prescription is that we need to trash the Reid and Pelosi health care bills, work in a bipartisan manner, do this in an incremental way to lower the cost to everybody, and work to make something that makes sense for the American public and keeps the good quality health care we have in America.

#### RECOVERY ACT REPORT

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, last week, I released a report outlining how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has benefited greater Arizona and identifying where improvements can be made. I surveyed